THE NEW YORK TIMES, TUESDAY, AUGUST 28, 1973

# Mrs. Mitchell Asserts That She Plans to Stand by Her Husband

SAN CLEMENTE, Calif., Aug 27 (UPI) — Mrs. John M. Mitchell said today that her husbad was "broken up" over the Watergate affair and they were no longer talking to each other, but that she planned to stand by him at least until all charges were resolved.

In a telephone call from New York City, Mrs. Mitchell said that her husband, the former Attorney General who had been President Nixon's campaign manager, was in a state of depression as a result of the Watergate scandal and related allegations against him.

She said that she and Mr. Mitchell were still living together, but "I don't talk to him anymore — I can't get through to him."

"He never moves, he won't see our friends, he's broken up," Mrs. Mitchel said.

"That's what the doctors say. He's remote. He's been taken. He took a tremendous loss. Nixon cut him off and his law firm has been miserable to him. He stays in the apartment 24 hours a day."

Mr. Mitchell has been charged with obstruction of justice and lying to a grand jury in connection with a $200,000 cas contribution from Robert L. Vesco, a New Jrsey financier, solicited while Mr. Vesco was investigation for "looting" millions of dollars from four mutual funds. Mr. Mitchell and Maurice H. Stand, a forrmer Secretary of Commerce, another defendant in the case, are scheduled to go on trial Sept. 11 in New York.

### Statements Disputed

Mrs. Mitchell, in telephone calls on Thursday and Friday, also disputed statements by her husband and the President that they had little contact during the summer of 1972 and the President was never told about the Watergage cover-up that was building during at the time Mr. Nixon, she said, talked to her husband frequently and knew about "the whole goddamn thing."

Mrs. Mitchell said today that she had been consulting a lawyer but gave no indication that she p lanned to seek a separation. Yesterday, a friend of Mrs. Mitchell was quoted as saying Mrs. Mitchell planned to leave her husband.

"I have to hold up until John is convicted or disbarred or cleared," Mrs. Mitchell said today. "I'm not going to do anything against my husband. I lived 17 years with him. I don't believe there are many women in the country who have been so faithful.

"I love him very much. He loves me because I've stood up for him. But he is defending the President who planned the whole goddamned thing. I'm talking to you in front of God."

In his appearance before the Senate committee investigating Watergate, Mr. Mitchell testified that he had not told the President of the cover-up because he feared it might jeopardize Mr. Nixon's chances of re-election.

As to why her husbandsaid that Mr. Nixon never asked him anything about the Watergate break-in, Mrs. Mitchell said, "There was no reason for the President to ask—he k new all about it."

Mrs. Mitchell repeated a staement that before her husband became 1972 campaign manager he was given a leather bound two-inch thick book marked "eyes only," which contained campaign strategy.

"I saw the book in my house, she said. "John was sitting in his chair reading it. He said to me, 'Boy, they really have got a good plan for surveillance.'

"He said it was foolproof. God, I wish I had taped it all down."

In her call Mrs. Mitchell sharply criticized the President.

"He bleeds people," she said. "He draw every drop of blood and then drops them from a cliff. He'll blame any person he can put his foot on. I've never seen anything like it in history. We need a new government."

Asked wht had happened to the "campaign strategy" book, Mrs. Mithcell said, "The whole damn thing has been shredded to bits—are you kidding?"

At the Western White House, a Presidential spokesman, Gerald L. Warren, denied the statement by Mrs. Mitchell and said the President stood by his statement that he had not had anything to do in the planning of his 1972 campaign.

"I know in the checking I have done, there was no such book," Mr. Warren said. "Obviously, there was campaign information compiled by the Committee to Re-Elect the President. There very well may have been a collection of information. I should not go further into these matters that the Senate Watergare Committee will look into."

### 'Bearing Up Well

In New York, lawyers for Mr. Mitchell said today that although the former Attorney General was undergoing considerable strain, he had not gone into seclusion and appeared to be "bearing up quite well under the circumstances."

Mr. Mitchell's top Washington lawyer, William Hundley, said he saw Mr. Mitchell last week.

"He came out to my house for dinner and put up with my six kids and that takes a spirite man. He enjoyed himself, he was even playing with them." said Mr. Hundley.

Other friends and legal advisers to Mr. Mitchell, said he appeared his usual self and they detected no signs of a breakdown.

"He knows how much trouble he's in, but he hasn't by any means given up the fight," said one friend.